

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 06224

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. EMBASSY HOUSING. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT DECLARING THE MOUNT ALTO SITE A CLOSED AREA IS THE BEST FIRST STEP TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE SOVIETS. ACCORDING TO OUR SCENARIO, IF UPDK/MFA DO NOT GIVE US SPECIFIC HOUSING BY COB MOSCOW TIME APRIL 1 (AND WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT THEY WILL) THEN THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD INFORM THE SOVIET EMBASSY THAT EFFECTIVE 0900 APRIL 3 THE MOUNT ALTO SITE IS A CLOSED AREA. WHILE WE ARE NOT SURE JUST HOW STRONGLY THE SOVIETS WILL FEEL ABOUT THIS ACTION, WE BELIEVE IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED QUICKLY IN CONFORMITY WITH EXISTING TRAVEL REGULATIONS. IN THE MEANTIME CAREFUL STUDY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF ORDERING A HALT TO CONSTRUCTION. WE REALIZE THAT THIS IS A COMPLEX AND SERIOUS ISSUE, BUT L SHOULD BE RESEARCHING IT CAREFULLY. AS A SECOND STEP, BEFORE ANY POSSIBLE HALT IN CONSTRUCTION, WE SHOULD TELL THE SOVIETS THAT THEIR REFUSAL TO PROVIDE HOUSING IS A DE FACTO CEILING ON OUR PERSONNEL LEVELS IN MOSCOW WHICH CLEARLY AFFECTS EMBASSY OPERATIONS. THEREFORE, WE ARE RELUCTANTLY PLANNING TO IMPOSE A PERSONNEL CEILING ON

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ALL SOVIETS ASSIGNED TO THEIR EMBASSY AS OF APRIL 10. THIS CEILING, SET AT THEIR PRESENT STRENGTH, WOULD BE REDUCED BY 17 - THE EXACT NUMBER OF APARTMENTS THEY ARE IN DEFAULT TO US. THE REDUCED CEILING WOULD TAKE EFFECT ON APRIL 17. THE REDUCED CEILING WILL CONTINUE IN EFFECT UNTIL WE RECEIVE THE APARTMENTS AT WHICH TIME WE WILL, OF COURSE, INCREASE THE CEILING BY THE EXACT NUMBER OF

APARTMENTS WERECEIVE. WE ARE CONVINCED THE SOVIETS WILL REALLY TRY TO AVOID A PERSONNEL CEILING. THEY HAVE FOUGHT THEM STRONGLY IN THE PAST IN OTHER COUNTRIES. THE PRECEDENT, ESPECIALLY FOR SOME NATO COUNTRIES, WOULD BE CLEAR. FINALLY, ON MAY 1, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE WOULD ORDER A HALT TO CONSTRUCTION (ASSUMING IT IS LEGALLY POSSIBLE). THE DATES GIVEN ABOVE COULD BE MODIFIED SOMEWHAT, EXCEPT FOR THE APRIL 3 ACTION (IN VIEW OF SHULMAN'S MARCH 16 NON-PAPER WHICH MENTIONS APRIL 1 AND THE GIST OF YESTERDAY'S NOTE). WE MUCH PREFER THE DIRECT LINKAGE OF HOUSING TO PERSONNEL STRENGTHS BECAUSE THEY ARE IN FACT CLOSELY RELATED. WE ARE OPPOSED TO VISA RESTRICTIONS PARTLY BECAUSE THEY ARE LESS DIRECT AND PARTLY BECAUSE WE ARE SO VULNERABLE ON THAT SCORE.

2. PLEASE INFORM JOHN CAMPBELL, COUNCIL FOREIGN RELATIONS, NEW YORK THAT APRIL 29 DATE IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR AMBASSADOR BUT HE HOPES TO PARTICIPATE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 19 MEETING.
3. RE LANGUAGE DESIGNATED POSITION FOR CARPENTER IN KIEV. PER SHOULD CHECK MOSCOW 1481 IN WHICH A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO WE ASKED THAT CARPENTER'S POSITION (50-303) BE LANGUAGE DESIGNATED AT S-3/R-3 LEVEL. THAT CABLE ALSO COVERS ALL POSITIONS IN THE SOVIET UNION, UPDATES VARIOUS CHANGES AND WAS IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST.
TOON

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